

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0029], [0030], and [0031], as numbered in the originally filed Specification, as follows:

[0029] In order to solve these conventional issues, a method for manufacturing an austenitic stainless steel according to ~~this invention claimed in claim 1~~ an embodiment of this invention is characterized by including the steps of performing nitriding on the austenitic stainless steel for use on member directly contacting with melted metal and melted alloy at a heating temperature to form a nitride-reformed layer and a passivation film on the surface of the austenitic stainless steel, and forming a passivation film on an outermost surface of the stainless steel.

[0030] Further, a solder-melting tank according to an embodiment of this invention ~~this invention claimed in claim 8~~ is characterized in that the tank comprises a solder bath for melting and storing solder and an immersion type heater installed in the solder bath, and in that in the solder bath and the immersion type heater, respectively, austenitic stainless steel having a nitride-reformed layer and a passivation film is used on the surface thereof.

[0031] Additionally, an automatic soldering apparatus according to an embodiment of this invention ~~this invention claimed in claim 13~~, which comprises a conveying belt and a solder-melting tank, is characterized in that in the solder-melting tank, austenitic stainless steel having a nitride-reformed layer and a passivation film is used on the surface thereof.